PREVIOUSLY IN:

WOLVERINE

"Politics makes strange bedfellows."

-CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER

"Revenge is a kind of wild justice, which the more man's nature runs to, the more ought law to weed it out."

-SIR FRANCIS BACON

Stamford, Connecticut. A clash between the NEW WARRIORS and a group of super-powered criminals culminates in a devastating explosion caused by Robert Hunter a/k/a NITRO. Over 600 men, women and children are confirmed dead.

Stockton, California. A suburban couple and a mysterious surfer are tracking WOLVERINE, who is in turn tracking Nitro. Their agenda remains unknown.

Washington, D.C. A mysterious benefactor has been providing aid and comfort to Nitro. To what end remains a mystery.

Big Sur, California. Wolverine and a special S.H.I.E.L.D. unit locate Nitro and attempt to bring him to justice. The encounter ends with the death of the entire strike force.

Somebody's not happy.

"JUSTICE"

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Wolverine (ISSN #1083-2623) No. 44, September, 2006. Published Monthly except nine months in January by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2006 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) is the direct-market and $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand. Canadian Agreement #40665537. **Printed in the USA.** Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. $27.00; Canada $37.00; Foreign $39.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO Wolverine, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 30520 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84130-0520. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (801) 228-0877. subscriptions@marvelsubs.com. ALAN FINE, President & CEO Of Marvel Toys and Marvel Publishing, Inc.; DAVID BOGART, VP Of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

PEOPLE CALL ME WOLVERINE.
I'M THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT I DO, AND WHAT I DO BEST...
IS KILLING A WHOLE MESS OF PEOPLE.

BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA.
8:22 AM PST
BUT THIS GUY--
ROBERT HUNTER, A.K.A. NITRO.
--THIS GUY COULD GIVE ME A RUN FOR MY MONEY IN THE KILLING DEPARTMENT.
HE'S ALREADY TAKEN OUT A WHOLE TOWN--OVER 600 SOULS.
PLUS THE NEW WARRIORS--THAT'S ANOTHER FOUR.
PLUS AN ENTIRE S.H.I.E.L.D. UNIT.
AND I'D BE EXTRA-CRISPY RIGHT ALONG WITH 'EM BUT FOR MY MUTANT HEALING FACTOR.
DAMN STRAIGHT I'M ENJOYING MYSELF.

NICE THING IS, I CAN TAKE MY TIME, DO THIS *RIGHT*.
I FIGURED I'D HAVE TO GO IN QUICK, TAKE HIM OUT *BEFORE* HE COULD BLOW ME UP WITH THAT POWER OF HIS.
BUT THEN I NOTICED-- HIS *HAIR'S* NOT ON FIRE.
AND THAT FLANNEL DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S MADE A UNSTABLE MOLECULES.
BUT THE KICKER WAS THE *CELL PHONE* HE USED.
NO WAY *THAT* SURVIVES THE BLAST UNLESS THERE'S SOME KINDA SAFETY ZONE AROUND HIM THAT'S NOT AFFECTED BY HIS POWER.
LIKE THE SAFEST PLACE IS *INSIDE* THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE.
MEANING, SO LONG'S I KEEP THIS CONTAINED... STAY *CLOSE*... I CAN DO THIS ALL AFTERNOON.
IT'S GONNA BE A LOVELY DAY.
"MY LIEGE... THERE'S BEEN A DEVELOPMENT."

AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE, DO YA THINK YOU DESERVE ANY DIFFERENT?
BUT YOU'RE A... YOU'RE ONE'A THE GOOD GUYS.
AIN'T YA BEEN READIN' THE PAPERS LATELY?
ALL THE GOOD GUYS'RE WORKIN' FOR THE GOVERNMENT NOW.
EVERYBODY ELSE IS JUST BREAKIN' THE LAW.
BUT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION...
NO. I'M NOT GONNA KILL YOU.
I'M GONNA BEAT ON YOU FOR A FEW MORE HOURS, THEN I MIGHT MOVE ON TO THE CUTTING.

IF YOU'RE NO LONGER BREATHIN' COME SUNSET, WELL... THAT'S NOT REALLY MY PROBLEM, IS IT?
WHAT IF...
WHAT IF I GAVE YOU SOMEBODY ELSE? ANOTHER NAME?
THE NAME OF SOMEBODY *ELSE* WHO KILLED OVER 600 PEOPLE?
YEAH... YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU EVER STOP TO WONDER *HOW* I DID THAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'D EVER HAD THAT KINDA POWER BEFORE.

HELL, THE GUY *STINKS* OF *FEAR*.
BUT HERE'S THE THING: HE DOESN'T SMELL LIKE HE'S *LYING*.
TALK, *VERY* FAST.
AND, HUNTER... I HEAR *ONE* WORD THAT DON'T SOUND RIGHT, YOU'RE GONNA GET A REAL GOOD LOOK AT YOUR SMALL INTESTINE.
IT'S A GUY NAMED--
WOLVERINE!

AND I WAS HAVING SUCH A GOOD DAY, TOO.
'SCUSE ME, BUT WE WERE HAVIN' A CONVERSATION HERE. RUDE TO INTERRUPT.
WHO THE HELL IS THIS GUY?
EXPLANATIONS'LL WAIT, I GUESS. FOR NOW...
...IT'S ON.

CHUMP
SHUP
CHOK
SNIKT
SNIKT

GUY'S GOOD. I'LL GIVE HIM THAT.
BET HE KNOWS HOW TO USE THAT BLADE, TOO.
'COURSE I'M NO SLOUCH, EITHER.
SHOK
STILL, I WOULDN'T MIND KNOWING WHO THIS GUY IS AND WHAT I DID TO TICK HIM--
ENOUGH!
STAND DOWN, WOLVERINE!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY QUARREL WITH YOU.
WHO THE HELL IS THIS NOW?

YOU SURE COULD'A FOOLED ME, LADY. I--
AND THAT'S WHEN IT HITS ME.
THESE GUYS DON'T HAVE A BEEF WITH ME AT ALL.
LET US GO WITH THE LONG-HAIRED ONE AND WE'LL LEAVE YOU IN PEACE.
BIGGER THAN HIM, HE SAID...
PEOPLE'D ANYTHING POSIT
SORRY, DARLIN'.
CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST THAT.

PITY.
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE MUCH FIGHT LEFT ■ YOU.
■ JUST MIGHT ■ RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
PARTICULARLY ■ THE BLACK GUY HITS LIKE A TRUCK.
DEFINITELY DEALING WITH POWERS HERE.
JANUS!!
YUP. POWERS. DEFINITELY.

YOU GUYS MADE A REALLY BIG MISTAKE.
THAT SO? DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH TO ME.
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT SHORT-AND-HAIRY, YOU MORON.
NEITHER WAS I, MORON.

FIGURES.
IF THESE GUYS CAME FOR NITRO, MAKES SENSE THEY'D COME PREPARED TO POWER HIM DOWN.
WHOEVER THEY ARE.
OOOF!
MORON. HUH?
WHO'S THE MORON NOW, BUDDY?
PAUL!
SO WE GOT "PAUL," "JANUS," AND SOME BLONDE WHO LOOKS LIKE A SOCCER MOM.
WHAT DO THREE SUBURBAN REFUGEES WITH POWERS WANT WITH NITRO?
"IT'S FALLOUT, FROM STAMFORD."

IS HE WORTH IT, WOLVERINE?
WHY GIVE UP YOUR LIFE TO SAVE HIS?
GRRRR...
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ANYTHING YET, SWEETHEART.
SHUNK
AND I AIN'T FORGIVING NO ONE.
IT'S JUST THAT ME AND THE MASS MURDERER HERE MADE OURSELVES A BARGAIN.

AIN'T PRETTY, BUT IT'S THE WORLD I'M LIVIN' IN RIGHT NOW.
THEN I'D CONSIDER MOVING.
BEHIND YOU.
HEY, BUDDY. MISS ME?
URG!
LOOKS LIKE EVERYBODY HERE WANTS A LITTLE PAYBACK.
WHY SHOULD I BE ANY DIFFERENT?

THIS IS THE MAN YOU'D PROTECT?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT RECONSIDERING.
WE ONLY WANT TO SEE JUSTICE DONE.
JUSTICE FOR STAMFORD?
DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE, BUT REMEMBER ME?
IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, I THOUGHT I'D JUST MOVE ON TO THE CUTTING.
DON'T KNOW WHY EVERYBODY'S GOTTA INTERRUPT ME...
...WHEN I'M TRYIN' TO HAVE A CONVERSATION.

LET'S EVERYBODY JUST CALM DOWN A SECOND.
YOU TOO, "JANICE."
STAY PUT OR I'LL CUT THE OTHER SHOULDER.
GOOD BOY.
NOW, EXPLANATIONS.
YOU'RE FROM STAMFORD?
HOW'D YOU GET THE STRENGTH BOOST? MGH? RADIATION? SUPER-SOLDIER FORMULA?
OUR STRENGTH IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT.
IT COMES FROM OUR HOME.
WHICH IS NOT YOUR STAMFORD.